

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The application is allowable for all the reasons argued by Applicant and in particular the prior art does not show or suggest a system and method for detecting acousto-phonic emissions in optically turbid media comprising of all the steps and elements as presently claimed wherein:

the DC component of the intensity modulated signal light beam is analyzed to obtain a measure of a magnitude of a mean phase shift induced by the ultrasonic wave on the signal light beam within the interaction region of the optically turbid medium; and

at least one change in the magnitude of the mean phase shift induced by the ultrasonic wave on the signal light beam is analyzed the at least one change in the magnitude of the mean phase shift being indicative of an object or an abnormality at the interaction region of the optically turbid medium.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hwa S. Lee (Andrew) whose telephone number is 571-272-2419. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tarifur R. Chowdhury can be reached on 571-272-2800. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Hwa S. Lee (Andrew)/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2886